

NCWRPC NEWS

The official newsletter of North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC).

Winter 2011, Number 43

Serving: Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood counties since 1973.



Director's Note

The New Year brings new challenges and opportunities, from scarcity of funding to more collaboration and partnerships. Strategic planning is a tool for organizations to identify those challenges and opportunities. Every organization needs to evaluate itself, determine its mission and its role. We are no different, so every five years we conduct a strategic planning process. Early this year we will conduct a strategic planning session and ask some basic questions, including: "How are we doing, what is our future role in the Region, and what challenges will we need to address?" If you have any thoughts or ideas on this topic let me know. The findings of this effort will be used to guide our organization in 2011 and beyond.

Our organization continues to operate with the mantra of doing more with less. As you may know the annual levy rate for 2011 was lowered again, the ninth consecutive decrease. The levy now makes up about 28 percent of the overall budget, while several years ago it peaked at over 45 percent of the overall budget. The NCWRPC is committed to providing real cost savings to its members, while still providing a high level of service.

Later this year the Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions will sponsor its second "Capital Days" in Madison. This is an opportunity to meet with many of the Region's newly elected officials and promote the needs of our Region and the efforts of Regional Planning to assist our communities reach their goals. If you are interested in joining us please contact our office.

As always, thank you for your continued support and remember that by working together everyone achieves more.

Wishing you all a great 2011!

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

Commission Highlights

The Fall Meeting of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission covered both the 2011 Annual Budget and the 2011 Work Program.

The approved budget contains three primary sources of revenue. The levy membership charge is expected to collect \$221,042 (down over 8% from last year), continuing EDA & DOT grants will total \$128,666 (the same as last year), project revenue will be at least \$435,872, and about \$3,000 will be collected from interest. Overall total revenues are expected to be \$788,680 (up 3%). Overall, total expenditures for 2011 will increase 3%, mainly because of health insurance.

Our 2011 Work Program contains nearly 60 projects throughout the Region, in the areas of economic development, GIS & mapping, land use, and transportation planning. Some of these projects are highlighted below:

Economic development projects include a Downtown Development Plan in Mosinee and grant administration on projects in Juneau and Wood Counties. Comprehensive planning

Continued on back

"Quarterly Quote"

"Always have a plan, and believe in it. Nothing happens by accident."

Chuck Knox, Football Coach

Commission Meetings
See our website for future dates and locations.
The public is always welcome.

Green Tier Legacy Communities A New Approach to Sustainability

The Green Tier Legacy program is a tool to assist Wisconsin communities advance local sustainability practices. The program, in which communities pledge to go beyond regulatory environmental compliance, has two main components: sustainability practices and water resources management. Participating communities receive technical assistance from the Wisconsin DNR and partner organizations, including 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, the UW Center on Wisconsin Strategy, and the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation.



The voluntary program is intended to complement – not replace – ongoing sustainability activities such as The Natural Step or other sustainability pathways. It is also a template for communities wanting to start a sustainability program. One of the goals of the program is to help communities save money and improve environmental impacts, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing energy use, and developing a transportation system that improves transit service and walking and biking opportunities. All policies need to be consistent with and complimentary to local Comprehensive Plans.

Currently, there are five communities throughout the state that have signed the Legacy Communities Green Tier Charter to participate in the program, including the Village of Weston, Marathon County, in our Region. Communities subscribing to the sustainability component of the charter are initially focusing on ensuring continued economic stability and reducing impact on the environment through a Sustainability Implementation and Monitoring Plan.

For more information contact Carla Wright, Wisconsin DNR – Central Office, at 608-259-1000.



Oneida County Online Records

The Oneida County Land Information Office (LIO) contacted the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) for assistance creating a single online county survey database and miscellaneous map site. Oneida County has over 42,000 records totaling 14 gigabits of data. NCWRPC converted all the .tif images into Portable Document Files (PDFs) and posted them on our website. Then an online database application was created that allows the public to search through the records. The public can now find survey, parcel, recreation, zoning, address, and voting ward maps all with a simple search, without having to go to the courthouse. Surveyors can search for Public Land Survey System (PLSS) corner certificates. Future plans are to create an index for survey notes from the 1880's to present.

Oneida County LIO and Surveyor, Michael Romportl, stated: “This project exceeded my expectations, and the public has been extremely pleased with being able to access the maps 24/7 with no complicated software or specialized training.”



To access the data go to http://www.ncwrpc.org/Oneida_data/. Oneida County also has an advanced users GIS Interactive mapping site at <http://www.co.oneida.wi.gov>.

For more information about this project or a similar project for your community contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or at afaust@ncwrpc.org.



EDA's Impact on North Central Wisconsin


The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) partners with communities throughout the country to foster job creation, collaboration, and innovation. EDA leads the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing Regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

Since 1979 the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has partnered with EDA as an Economic Development District. That partnership led to an investment of nearly \$25 million in North Central Wisconsin. The table below shows EDA investment by sub-region: the North sub-region consists of Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties; the Central sub-region consists of Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties; and the South sub-region consists of Adams and Juneau Counties.

EDA Investments 1979-2010	
Sub-Region	EDA \$
North	\$10,564,341
Central	\$10,481,639
South	\$3,662,020
NCWRPC Total	\$24,708,000

The public works program, which funds construction of essential public infrastructure and facilities, comprises roughly 77 percent of the investment throughout the Region. The remaining projects were funded under the EDA's planning and technical assistance programs.


One of the requirements to maintain an Economic Development District is to annually complete a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic plan to diversify and strengthen regional economies. The CEDS analyzes the regional economy, establish goals and objectives, develop action steps, and identify investment priorities and funding sources.

NCWRPC updates its CEDS every spring to identify new trends in the Region and to incorporate new economic development projects in the region. Project inclusion in the CEDS is essential for EDA funding. For more information on the CEDS or to submit a project please contact Matt Schreiber at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or at mschreiber@ncwrpc.org. 

WROC Nears Completion

The Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC) is a multi-entity group involving seven regional planning commissions (RPCs), and managed by the NCWRPC. The RPCs assisted in coordinating mapping services for participating members of WROC. The goal of the consortium is to build and sustain a program to acquire digital orthoimagery and elevation data throughout Wisconsin. The consortium provides several benefits to participants, including: specifications and standards support, data sharing between participants, procurement support, and cost savings.

Imagery was captured using a Digital Mapping Camera in spring of 2010. In all, 56,000 square miles of imagery was processed. This is the largest amount of leaf-off imagery that has been captured in one time frame in Wisconsin history. This digital dataset will be used by all levels of government for planning, land records systems, emergency management, 911 systems, and economic development. In the end, the first uniform statewide 18" aerial imagery product will be achieved.

For more information about WROC contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or at afaust@ncwrpc.org. The WROC website is at: www.ncwrpc.org/WROC. 



Volk-Hardwood JLUS Begins

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has been awarded a grant from the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment to complete a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) on Volk Field and Hardwood Range in Juneau County. The JLUS is directed at examining how surrounding land uses affect the mission of military installations, and to foster greater levels of communication between the military and the community. By looking at how the land around the base/range is used public safety is guarded and impacts can be minimized, and the utility of the installation can be preserved well into the future.

Volk Field is Juneau County's second largest employer, with over 400 civilian and military employees and an annual economic impact over \$31 million. Volk Field and Hardwood Range perform a crucial training role for members of the Air National Guard (ANG). It is one of only three ANG facilities in the country where the airstrip is fully owned by the services, increasing greatly the training capability of the base, and allowing round-the-clock training. Today, Volk Field serves as a training site for over 200 units per year, a significant percentage of the ANG force. Hardwood Range is twenty-five miles north of Volk Field, near the Juneau-Wood County line.

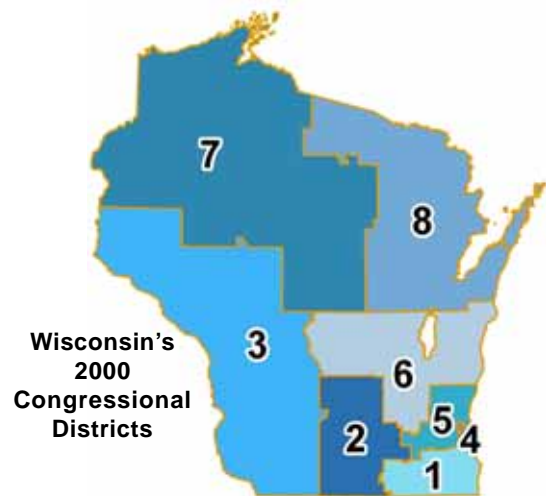
The JLUS process will be governed by a Policy Committee comprised of elected officials from participating Towns affected by base operations, Camp Douglas, Wood and Juneau Counties. All meetings of the Policy Committee will be noticed and open to the public. A webpage (<http://www.ncwrpc.org/juneau/jlus/>) will make all documents and records available. While the base has been here in one form or another since 1888, its future existence isn't guaranteed. One of the goals of the JLUS process is to protect the long term viability of Volk Field and Hardwood Range as military training facilities. While there are not significant encroachment issues at either Volk Field or Hardwood, good planning argues that this is the right time to act.

Contact Mike Agnew, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 307, or at magnew@ncwrpc.org for more information.



Redistricting Starts Soon

Redistricting is a process that is completed every ten years following the U.S. Census. Its purpose is to establish election districts which provide equal representation for all potential voters. This spring, the new census population counts will be provided to counties, which starts this process. As population changes occur, districts need to be adjusted to maintain proportional populations within each district. Some of the other rules include: be compact; respect communities of interest; retain the core existing districts; cooperate between county and municipalities; and involve the public.



The Wisconsin Legislative Technology Service Bureau, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Applied Population Laboratory, and the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau created the WISE-LR application to help counties, cities, and villages with redistricting. WISE-LR is a simple to use online local redistricting tool that can be utilized to quickly and easily create county supervisory, aldermanic, and municipal ward boundaries. The application will use U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 tabulation blocks merged with Census 2010 population totals. WISE-LR was built specifically to help counties meet a statutory requirement to submit municipal ward information to the Legislature.

NCWRPC has started to assist Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas counties with redistricting. If you have any questions or need any assistance with redistricting contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or at afaust@ncwrpc.org.




NCWRPC Return On Investment

As budgets become tighter and financial decisions become more difficult to make, it is useful to conduct a Return on Investment (ROI) analysis. We all do this with our own personal investments, and it is also appropriate to do this in the public realm. The term ROI is defined here as the value generated and leveraged by membership contributions.

One of our organizational priorities is to bring funding into the region for our member communities. A further examination of this ROI analysis shows that every dollar provided to NCWRPC via membership leverages additional federal, state, and other local dollars. In 2010, the NCWRPC brought over \$2.5 million dollars to the region via state and federal grants. Simply put, for every dollar the NCWRPC receives from local membership it leverages nearly 12 dollars more for our region.

Clearly, investing in the NCWRPC continues to provide a significant return on investment!

Connect with Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org on how to become an NCWRPC member community. 



Area Communities Receive Transportation Grants

Late last year, then Governor Doyle announced that 44 communities throughout Wisconsin will receive grants totaling over \$6 million to help fund projects to make their streets and intersections safer for children who walk or bike to school. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is designed to get more children in grades K-8 to walk or bike to school, decrease traffic around schools, and reduce vehicle emissions.

SRTS planning grants were awarded to the Rhinelander School District and the Almond-Bancroft School District. The NCWRPC will assist each district in developing SRTS plans for several schools to leverage project implementation grants in future application cycles. A SRTS project grant was awarded to the City of Wisconsin Rapids to implement its SRTS Plan which was prepared with the assistance of the NCWRPC. This grant will improve safety for children around four schools within the City. Major elements of the grant include a mid-block crossing on a major traffic thoroughfare, sidewalks and paths around two of the schools, bike racks at each school, and SRTS coordinator training for school district staff.

Also announced were the Transportation Enhancement (TE) and Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BFPF) grant awards. The TE program funds projects that increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment. The BFPF funds projects that construct or plan for bicycle or bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Adams and Lincoln Counties were awarded funds to develop countywide bicycle and pedestrian plans. NCWRPC staff will be partnering with county agencies and local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups, businesses and the general public to look at bicycle and pedestrian connections across each county.

If you have any questions about Safe Routes to School or general bicycle and pedestrian planning, please feel free to contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org. 

Commission Highlights Continued

Continued from page 1

assistance is being provided to Forest and Oneida Counties as well as several other communities. Redistricting Plans will be prepared in several counties. As part of membership we provide assistance to our counties for updates to outdoor recreation plans, land & water resource management plans, all hazard plans, among others. This year we are scheduled to work with Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, and Lincoln Counties, as well as the Village of Kronenwetter, and the City of Wisconsin Rapids. In addition we are working with Lincoln County to develop a county All Hazard Plan. Safe Routes to School Plans are just starting in Almond-Bancroft and Rhinelander, and county-wide bike plans will be prepared in both Adams and Lincoln Counties.

Although there are already many projects identified, we always have room for more. Please contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org for more information.



NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Donald Krahn
Glenn Licitar
Ron Jacobson

Juneau County

Edmund Wafle
Appointment Pending
Appointment Pending

Lincoln County

Robert Lussow
Thomas Rick
Doug Williams

Oneida County

Wilbur Petroskey
Thomas Rudolph
Appointment Pending

Vilas County

Bob Egan
Ralph Sitzberger
Appointment Pending

Forest County

Erhard Huettl
Jimmy Landru, Jr.
Paul Millan

Langlade County

George Bornemann
Ronald Nye
Paul Schuman

Marathon County

Marilyn Bhend
Craig McEwen
Bettye Nall

Portage County

Inactive

Wood County

Frederick Camacho
Tomas Haferman
Maurice Mathews

PRSRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 6235
WAUSAU WI

North Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission
210 McClellan Street, Suite 210
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403
715-849-5510
www.ncwrpc.org
Fax: 715-849-5110
staff@ncwrpc.org

